

Remarks

In the specification, the addition of the reference numeral "2" to paragraph 0031 of the specification should cure the Examiner's 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) objection.

In the claims, original claims 1 – 8 have been allowed. Claims 9 – 11, now canceled, stand rejected as anticipated by Pinard FR 2,600,541 A1. Claims 12 – 16, also canceled, stand rejected as anticipated by Ionel US 4, 076,236. Claim 11, now canceled, is objected to, presumably because "said triangle" lacks an antecedent.

By this amendment, claims 9 – 16 have been canceled and new claims 17 - 21 added. New claim 17 combines the subject matter of canceled claims 9 and 12 together with a broadly described quick-release feature similar to claims 1 – 8. New claims 18 – 21 depend from new claim 17 and add further inventive features.

Applicants submit that it would be unobvious to combine the polygonal weight shapes of Pinard, the interlocking geometric shapes of Ionel, and a manually operated quick-release feature. Hence new claims 17 - 21 would define novel subject matter neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of records, and would be patentable. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request that the patent be approved for issue with claims 1 – 8 (already allowed) together with new claims 17 – 21 be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicant

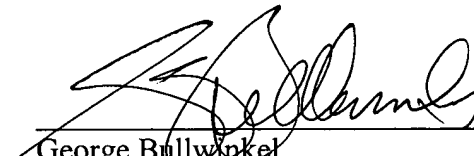
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George Bullwinkel
Registration No. 24,585
BULLWINKEL PARTNERS, LTD.
19 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1300
Chicago, Illinois 60603-1493
312-201-0777
Fax 312-201-0737

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

George E. Bullwinkel, attorney of record, hereby certifies that one copy of the foregoing
AMENDMENT was transmitted by Express Mail, postage prepaid, on June 3, 2005 to:

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George Bullwinkel
Registration No. 24,585